

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 6, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 21, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 4, 2011
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2011
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 790

Introduced by Assembly Members Furutani and Carter

February 17, 2011

An act to amend Section 52372.5 of, and to add and repeal Section 52372.7 of, the Education Code, relating to career technical education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 790, as amended, Furutani. Career technical education: Linked Learning-~~Methodology~~ Pilot Program.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop, in conjunction with specified persons and entities, a report that explores the feasibility of expanding and establishing career multiple pathway programs, as defined, in California.

This bill, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, would establish the Linked Learning-~~Methodology~~ Pilot Program to be administered by the State Department of Education according to specified requirements for the purpose of implementing districtwide linked learning-~~methodologies~~ *programs*, as defined, in all participating school districts. The bill would authorize a school district that maintains any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, to apply to the Superintendent to operate

a pilot program. The bill would require the department to review these applications and would authorize the Superintendent to initially approve no more than 20 applications. The bill would require ~~this application review and approval to be conducted on a competitive basis with consideration given to specified factors~~ *that, if funds become available for purposes of the pilot program, the Superintendent allocate these funds on a competitive basis, based on the applications submitted.* The bill would require the Superintendent to transmit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by September 30, 2016, that makes specified evaluations and recommendations.

The bill would make these provisions inoperative on July 1, 2017, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2018.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) California is at a critical crossroads in terms of the challenges
- 4 it faces in reforming its public high school system.
- 5 (b) California is facing an unprecedented state funding gap and
- 6 will face continued fiscal problems in the future if it does not
- 7 produce an educated and career-ready workforce.
- 8 (c) California must lead efforts to improve graduation rates,
- 9 close achievement and opportunity gaps, and prepare all pupils
- 10 for success in pursuing both living-wage careers and a variety of
- 11 postsecondary learning experiences.
- 12 (d) California must embrace new, innovative approaches to
- 13 educational transformation that are likely to lead to high successful
- 14 outcomes for our pupils, families, communities, and local and state
- 15 economies.
- 16 (e) California operates a variety of effective career technical
- 17 education training programs that meet local needs and that continue
- 18 to evolve the options to meet economic demand.
- 19 (f) The linked learning approach is one of the most promising
- 20 high school transformational strategies and can be expanded to
- 21 play a pivotal role in enabling all of our pupils to be well prepared
- 22 for life and workforce demands in a 21st century global economy
- 23 and society.

1 SEC. 2. Section 52372.5 of the Education Code is amended to
2 read:

3 52372.5. (a) For purposes of this section, a “linked learning
4 ~~methodology~~” *program*” is a ~~methodology~~ *program* that is all of
5 the following:

6 (1) A multiyear, comprehensive high school—~~methodology~~
7 *program* of integrated academic and technical study that is
8 organized around a broad theme, interest area, or industry sector,
9 including, but not necessarily limited to, the industry sectors
10 identified in the model standards adopted by the state board
11 pursuant to Section 51226.

12 (2) A ~~methodology~~ *program* that ensures that all pupils have
13 curriculum choices that will prepare them for career entry and a
14 full range of postsecondary options, including two- and four-year
15 college, apprenticeship, and formal employment training.

16 (3) A ~~methodology~~ *program* that is comprised, at a minimum,
17 of the following components:

18 (A) An integrated core curriculum that meets the eligibility
19 requirements for admission to the University of California and the
20 California State University and is delivered through project-based
21 learning and other engaging instructional strategies that
22 intentionally bring real-world context and relevance to the
23 curriculum where broad themes, interest areas, and career technical
24 education are emphasized.

25 (B) An integrated technical core of a sequence of at least four
26 related courses, that may reflect career technical education
27 standards-based courses, that provide pupils with career skills, that
28 are aligned to and underscore academic principles, and to the extent
29 possible fulfill the academic core requirements listed in
30 subparagraph (A).

31 (C) A series of work-based learning opportunities that begin
32 with mentoring and job shadowing and evolve into intensive
33 internships, school-based enterprises, or virtual apprenticeships.

34 (D) Support services, including supplemental instruction in
35 reading and mathematics, that help pupils master the advanced
36 academic and technical content that is necessary for success in
37 college and career.

38 (b) The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Office of the
39 Secretary for Education, the California Community Colleges, the
40 University of California, the California State University, the

1 Employment Development Department, both houses of the
2 California Legislature, teachers, chamber organizations, industry
3 representatives, research centers, parents, school administrators,
4 representatives of regional occupational centers and programs,
5 community-based organizations, labor organizations, and others
6 deemed appropriate by the Superintendent, shall develop a report
7 that explores the feasibility of establishing and expanding
8 additional linked learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs* in California,
9 including the costs and merits associated with expansion of these
10 ~~methodologies~~. ~~Linked learning methodologies created~~ *programs*.
11 *Linked learning programs created* for high schools may include,
12 but are not limited to, California partnership academies, regional
13 occupational centers and programs, charter schools, academies,
14 small learning communities, and other career-themed small schools.
15 (c) The report described in subdivision (b) shall do all of the
16 following:
17 (1) Identify regulations, policies, and practices that need to be
18 added, deleted, or amended in order to promote the development
19 and expansion of linked learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs*.
20 (2) Set forth a reasonable timeline for the development and
21 expansion of linked learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs*.
22 (3) Include at least all of the following components:
23 (A) Assessment of the current capacity of the department for
24 the purpose of maximizing the development of these ~~methodologies~~
25 *programs*.
26 (B) Identifying the possible roles and responsibilities of other
27 departments or agencies to assist in developing or expanding linked
28 learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs*.
29 (C) An assessment of the appropriateness of school districts
30 fulfilling the requirements set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) of
31 Section 51228 by developing industry-focused linked learning
32 ~~methodologies~~ *programs*, including those described in this section.
33 (D) Methods for developing and sharing models of integrated
34 curriculum and instruction.
35 (E) Strategies for increasing the course options and instructional
36 time for pupils in high school.
37 (F) Plans for increasing opportunities for high-quality learning
38 based on real-world applications in industry and careers.

1 (G) Methods for improving alignment of curriculum between
2 middle schools and high schools with career instruction,
3 exploration, and counseling for middle school pupils.

4 (H) Methods for improving coordination and articulation
5 between high schools and postsecondary institutions, including,
6 but not limited to, California Community Colleges, the California
7 State University, and the University of California.

8 (I) Recommendations for increasing the supply of teachers who
9 can teach effectively in a linked learning setting that aims to
10 prepare pupils for a full range of postsecondary options. Necessary
11 specialized skills include, but are not limited to, the abilities to
12 design interdisciplinary projects and use project-based learning as
13 an instructional strategy, work with other teachers in a
14 team-teaching arrangement, develop curriculum that effectively
15 integrates academic and technical content, design and utilize
16 high-quality work-based learning to reinforce lessons in both
17 academic and technical courses, and develop authentic pupil
18 assessments.

19 (J) Recommendations for increasing the supply of schoolsite
20 and district administrators who can effectively create and manage
21 schools that are implementing one or more industry-focused linked
22 learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs*. Necessary specialized skills
23 include, but are not limited to, the abilities to develop and sustain
24 partnerships with industry partners, recruit and retain uniquely
25 qualified teachers, guide development of integrated curriculum,
26 understand needs for and provide teacher professional development,
27 guide development of comprehensive guidance systems that
28 integrate college advising and career counseling, guide
29 development of a coordinated and sequenced work-based learning
30 component, and utilize data to assess pupil readiness for college
31 and career.

32 (K) Recommendations for supporting regional coalitions in
33 planning and developing ~~methodologies~~ *programs*.

34 (L) Evaluation of current linked learning ~~methodologies~~
35 *programs*, including partnership academies, regional occupational
36 centers or programs and postsecondary linked learning
37 ~~methodologies~~ *programs*, including middle colleges and early
38 college models.

39 (M) Recommendations for increasing and improving in-school
40 support services.

1 (N) Recommendations for incorporating new measures into the
2 state's accountability system to better assess the results of these
3 linked learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs*.

4 (O) Assessment of the budgetary implications of offering all
5 pupils access to these linked learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs*.

6 (d) For purposes of completing the report described in
7 subdivision (b), the Superintendent is authorized to use existing
8 state resources and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not
9 available or sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept
10 grants and receive donations, and other financial support from
11 public or private sources for purposes of this section.

12 (e) In developing the report, the Superintendent may accept
13 support including, but not necessarily limited to, financial and
14 technical support, from high school reform advocates, teachers,
15 chamber organizations, industry representatives, research centers,
16 parents, and pupils.

17 (f) The Superintendent shall report to the Legislature as to the
18 status of completing the report and any preliminary
19 recommendations no later than July 1, 2009.

20 (g) The Superintendent shall submit a final report with
21 recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor no later than
22 December 1, 2009.

23 SEC. 3. Section 52372.7 is added to the Education Code, to
24 read:

25 52372.7. (a) Commencing with the 2012–13 school year, the
26 Linked Learning ~~Methodology~~ Pilot Program is hereby established
27 for the purpose of implementing districtwide linked learning
28 ~~methodologies~~ *programs*, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section
29 52372.5, in all participating school districts.

30 (b) The pilot program shall be administered by the department
31 and shall contain all of the following requirements:

32 (1) Each participating school district shall incorporate
33 small-sized schools and smaller groupings of pupils within new
34 and existing high schools.

35 (2) Rigorous linked learning ~~methodologies~~ *programs* shall be
36 implemented that guide pupils through course sequences leading
37 to mastery of standards, high school graduation, and transition to
38 postsecondary education or employment. These ~~methodologies~~
39 *programs* shall include career technical education courses as

1 defined by the California State Plan for Career Technical
2 Education.

3 (3) Policies and agreements shall be adopted by participating
4 school districts that promote concurrent enrollment and dual credit
5 with community colleges and universities.

6 (4) Problem-based instructional methodologies, inquiry learning
7 approaches, and applied learning strategies shall be adopted within
8 all subject areas.

9 (5) Pupil progress through high school shall be determined by
10 mastery of grade-level standards-based performance benchmarks
11 developed by the participating school district.

12 (6) Linked learning—~~methodologies~~ *programs* shall be
13 implemented by participating school districts within the district's
14 existing state and local resources.

15 (7) Participating school districts shall involve local business,
16 labor, parent, and community partners to advise the district on the
17 development, implementation, and ongoing evaluation of the pilot
18 program.

19 (c) (1) A school district that maintains any of grades 9 to 12,
20 inclusive, may apply to the Superintendent to operate a Linked
21 Learning—~~Methodology~~ Pilot Program in accordance with this
22 section. The department shall review these applications and the
23 Superintendent may initially approve no more than 20 applications.

24 ~~(2) The review and approval of applications pursuant to~~
25 ~~paragraph (1) shall be conducted on a competitive basis.~~

26 (2) (A) Each applicant school district shall demonstrate its plans
27 to implement the components of a linked learning—~~methodology~~
28 *program*, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 52372.5.
29 Consideration shall be given to factors related to the geographic
30 diversity, type, and size of a school district, and the extent to which
31 a school district's pilot program would receive financial and in-kind
32 support from the business and civic community or funding from
33 government or foundation grants.

34 *(B) If funds become available for the pilot program, the*
35 *Superintendent shall allocate these funds on a competitive basis*
36 *to applicant school districts based on the applications submitted*
37 *pursuant to paragraph (1).*

38 (d) (1) On or before September 30, 2016, the Superintendent
39 shall transmit a report to the Legislature and the Governor that
40 documents an evaluation that includes both of the following:

1 (A) The costs and merits of the pilot program, including pupil
2 outcome data that includes, but is not limited to, pupil dropout and
3 graduation rates, the number and percentage of participating pupils
4 who meet the requirements and prerequisites for admission to
5 California public institutions of postsecondary education, and
6 workforce outcome data, which may include the number or
7 percentage of pupils who earn a certificate, license, or the
8 equivalent in a designated occupation.

9 (B) The Superintendent's recommendations regarding the need
10 for additional statutory changes to facilitate the statewide expansion
11 of the Linked Learning ~~Methodology~~ Pilot Program.

12 (2) A report submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be
13 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
14 Code.

15 (e) The Superintendent may develop regulations necessary to
16 implement the provisions of this section.

17 (f) The Superintendent shall use existing state and federal
18 resources to implement the provisions of this section.

19 (g) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2017, and,
20 as of January 1, 2018, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute,
21 that becomes operative on or before January 1, 2018, deletes or
22 extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.